

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

Langley Porter, M. D.

Geo. H. Kress, M. D.

A. J. Lartigau, M. D.

Raymond Russ, M. D.

R. E. Bering, M. D., Chairman Advertising Committee.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society,
State Journal,
Official Register,

Butler Building,
San Francisco.

Telephone Douglas 2537

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

VOL. IX FEBRUARY, 1911. No. 2

EDITORIAL NOTES.

At the time of writing, no bills harmfully modifying our medical practice act or seriously menacing public health have been introduced, though, if one may judge at all by the history of past legislatures, some bills of this class will be introduced ere long. Two bills have been introduced at the suggestion of the attorney for the Board of Medical Examiners. One of them increases the limit of fine and imprisonment for practicing without a license; the purpose of this is to permit the cases of misdemeanor under charge of violating this section of the law to be tried in a Superior Court and not in a police court. It is almost impossible to obtain a verdict, no matter how conclusive the evidence may be, for practicing without a license if the case is tried in a police court. In San Francisco, recently, a number of such cases were tried and a verdict of acquittal given when the evidence was absolutely conclusive. The other bill makes it a misdemeanor for any licensed physician to practice medicine under any name other than that in which his license is issued and requires all companies, associations, institutions, etc., to file with the Board of Examiners, and to post conspicuously in their place of business, a list of all licensed physicians who are employed by them to treat the sick or afflicted. This measure is being urged with the belief that it will make it possible to get rid of some of the abortionists who hide under assumed names and also to curtail the activities of some of the advertising "medical" companies that do such a thriving quack business. How much may be accomplished by this latter measure remains to be seen but in all probability it will

help somewhat in the work of cleaning out the quacks. Doubtless other bills having more or less bearing upon the practice of medicine will be introduced. There are three physicians in the legislature. Dr. J. L. Avey, of Redlands, is in the Senate, and in the Assembly there are Dr. E. M. Butler, of Los Angeles and Dr. D. W. Mott of Santa Paula. Mr. John F. Beckett, a brother of Dr. W. W. Beckett of Los Angeles, is also in the Assembly. The committees in the Senate and Assembly to which all bills affecting public health or medical laws will be referred, are as follows:

Senate—Public Health and Quarantine: Senators Regan (chairman), Roseberry, Stetson, Beban and Holohan.

Assembly—Medical and Dental Laws: Messrs. Hinshaw (chairman), Butler, Denegri, Malone, Rogers of Alameda, Flint, Brown, Gerdes and Bliss.

A correspondent writes to the JOURNAL in most emphatic terms deploring the election of Judge Works to the United States Senate. **EDDYITE DOINGS.** He objects because Works is an eddy-ite, and it appears as though there were a movement on foot to place a number of eddyite followers in our legislative halls and thus influence legislation. He also objects because Works is a "reader" in a "Church of Christ Scientist"—and that use of the word "scientist," well, a red rag is more pacifying to a slightly nervous bull. But our correspondent forgets. Works is only a figment of his own imagination; to that figment there is no Senate, it is only an idea; he can not do anything about legislation, because there is no such thing as legislation, that too being a mere idea; to think it is "error." It is quite useless to get worked up over this passing delusion; you cannot fight un-reason with logic; you can neither legislate nor club common sense into anyone. These people do not know what they are saying; they cannot argue; they cannot discuss anything logically; they can only repeat, parrot-like, the meaningless words that some other person has jumbled together. Cultivate a sense of humor and let the delusion wear itself out. We can have faith without "Works."

The President, Mr. Taft, in his message to the Congress, makes the following statement in regard to public health legislation: "In my **PUBLIC HEALTH.** message of last year I recommended the creation of a Bureau of Health, in which should be embraced all those government agencies outside of the War and Navy departments which are now directed toward the preservation of public health or exercise functions germane to that subject. I renew this recommendation." That should silence a good deal of adverse talk; but it will not. The "League for medical freedom" will go right on stirring up all the opposition to such a bureau or department that it possibly can. It will also stir up opposition to all public health measures in the various states and do everything it can to break down just laws and regulations dealing with health conditions. Senator Owen, who introduced the bill which started all the trouble, says, speaking of this "medical freedom"

fake: "This argument is undoubtedly made by the patent medicine men who are engaged in promoting drug habits in the United States for the base purpose of making money, and dread governmental interference."

Differential pressure is still the all-absorbing problem of thoracic surgery. If this question is

PROGRESS IN THORACIC SURGERY.

satisfactorily solved and a small, convenient, ever-ready apparatus evolved, the technic of surgery of the thoracic cavity will make rapid strides. A year ago the JOURNAL said, editorially, that the Meltzer-Auer method was certainly the most important contribution to the subject which had appeared and recent work with this apparatus by different experimenters, both in Europe and in this country, would seem to strengthen this view. It has been claimed by many who have argued against intubating the trachea almost to its bifurcation, that injury of this structure would be almost certain to result and that infection of the lungs could easily occur. Such, however, has not happened in the few human cases which up to the present time have been operated upon by this method. The work upon animals has demonstrated clearly that these difficulties are not encountered, although tracheal infections are common in distemper, and Meltzer has lately shown that a true pneumonia may be readily caused in dogs. Quinby recently passed a tracheal tube which was known to be septic and infection of the lungs quickly followed. The air passages of the dog are more prone to infection than has generally been considered. But most observers seem to lose sight of the fact that emphysema may very easily be caused by the Meltzer-Auer method and even perforation of the lung may result in small animals from too great a pressure. It is most important that the pressure at all times be carefully observed and regulated. To the operator the fact that with this method the lungs are practically at rest is a most important feature. In Tiegel's latest work upon the bronchus he notes that heavy respiration has occurred frequently with the use of his face mask, and that this has seriously interfered with his technical work. He has been obliged to adopt the method of Volhard, which consists in a high intubation of the trachea, in order to obviate this difficulty.

The writer recently stated that the new positive pressure cabinet of Janeway and Green in which, by means of an ingenious valve, the air is raised to a pressure of plus ten and rapidly lowered to normal, thus causing the patient to breathe artificially, possessed great merit. Besides inhibiting the movements of the chest wall, thus making the operative work much easier, it does away with the carbon dioxide retention which is such a drawback to most forms of differential pressure apparatus. This statement was promptly controverted by others, and yet the most severe critic of the Meltzer-Auer method, Willy Meyer, now believes that an occasional deflation of the lungs, a change in differential in his cabinet, is necessary in order to get rid of the increased carbon dioxide and that un-

doubtedly the shock which occurs in long operations is due partly at least to this accumulation.

The Meltzer-Auer method has so broadened our horizon that it is not too much to say that a practical solution of this most important problem will soon be made.

R. R.

Why, do you suppose, any manufacturer pays this Society good money for space in your JOURNAL in order to set forth the merits of his goods? Do you think it is just a way he has of getting rid of his superfluous money, or do you regard him as a peripatetic philanthropist? He is not. He has something that you may need, that it may be to your advantage to know about and that he hopes he may sell to you. It is distinctly to your advantage to read the advertising pages of your JOURNAL and to see what things are there offered to you; it is a little difficult, in this world, at least, to know too much and you might as well know all you can—especially when it does not cost you any more. Everything advertised in this JOURNAL is honest and exactly as represented. Look through the advertising pages and see what is there; do it every month. When you buy from an advertiser, let him know that you are a member of the Society and that you know he advertises in your own JOURNAL. It will not hurt you a bit; it will make him feel better and it will help your JOURNAL.

It is singular how people who wish to sell things to eat or drink seem to have the delusion that the particular thing they wish to sell has most wonderful therapeutic value! Food stuffs of the most simple composition become wonderful remedies in the expert hands of the advertisement writer; even water can become a cure-all. "Electric White Diamond Water" seems to be just ordinary water that has had some electricity shot through it. "Ozone is formed in the water. . . . Ozone is the greatest sterilizer known"; and therefore, of course, "electric white diamond water" becomes a wonderful remedy. "It is the only water in the world which has a decided and beneficial effect on the human system." That is certainly a modest and retiring statement, though it sounds more like the language of an "adsmith" than of a scientist. But just absorb this and then rush wildly about until you find some "e. w. d. water": "The electrical action which this water undergoes makes it radio-active, and as such it cannot fail to alleviate all stomach troubles however acute or chronic they may be." Gastro-enterostomy will soon be regarded as a tradition of the early barbaric days—the days before mankind had been blessed with "Electric White Diamond Water"—at four bits a bottle!

The vexing problem of the abuse of medical charity, or the "dispensary evil" has grown lustily for a generation. It became so bad in New York that in 1898 the Dispensary Law was passed and all dispensaries required to be licensed by the State Board of Charities. This has only partly

MEDICAL CHARITY.